THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) Following broad based consultations on the subject matter after India became a Party to the Convention on Biological diversity in 1994, the Government constituted an Expert Committee in August, 1997 to suggest a draft legislation on Biological Diversity.

The committee gave a draft outline of an Act on Biological diversity in October 1997. In pursuance thereof, this matter is under further examination.

Effects of Nuclear Weapons Explosions on Environment

1065. **SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what can be the effects of nuclear weapons utilisation and its explosions;

(b) whether the department of Environment has studied the effects;

(c) whether the environment will be badly affected, if so, its likely effects on vegetation and livestock in the surrounding area;

(d) how many trees are destroyed and its effect on cattle stock; and

(e) what precautions were taken to avoid or diminish its ill-effects?

THE MINISTER OF START IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid down on the table of the House.

Hazardous Waste in the Inland container Depots

1066. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee appointed by the Supreme Court to report on the stock-pole of hazardous waste in the 1000 odd Inland container Depots all over the country, has detected enormous stock-piles of battery scrap, leadish waste oil and zinc-ash and other hazardous waste in these Depots;

(b) if so, the details of the hazardous waste piled up at these Depots and how so much of this waste found its way into the country despite the Basel-Convention adopted in 1995; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANADI): (a) and (b) The High Powered Committee appointed by the Supreme Court has been asked to look into the quantum and nature of hazardous wastes lying at various ports and container depots throughout the country. As per the information supplied by various ports and inland container depots, the status of hazardous wastes lying at some of the ports and container depots is given in the annexure. [See Appendix 184, Annexure No. 36]. The import of hazardous waste into the country is governed by Hazardous Waste (Mangement and Handling) Rules, 1989 and in accordance with the provisions of Basel Convention. The hazardous wastes lying at ports and container depots are the unclaimed consignments which were taken in custody by the Customs Authorities in view of Delhi High Court Order banning the import of hazardous wastes.

(c) Samples of hazardous wastes lying at various ports and container depots have been collected and their analysis is in progress.

Tata Energy Research Institute Report on Pollution

1067. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the Tata Energy Research Institute Report,